

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

KAIFI LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC.;
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON
WIRELESS; VERIZON SERVICES CORP.;
VERIZON ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS,
LLC; VERIZON BUSINESS GLOBAL LLC;
VERIZON BUSINESS NETWORK
SERVICES, LLC; VERIZON CORPORATE
SERVICES GROUP INC.; VERIZON DATA
SERVICES, LLC; VERIZON MEDIA INC.;
and VERIZON ONLINE, LLC,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:20-CV-00280-JRG

ORDER REGARDING E-DISCOVERY

The Court ORDERS as follows:

1. This order supplements all other discovery rules and orders. It streamlines Electronically Stored Information (“ESI”) production to promote a “just, speedy, and inexpensive determination” of this action, as required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 1.
2. This order may be modified in the court’s discretion or by agreement of the parties. If the parties cannot resolve their disagreements regarding any modifications, the parties shall submit their competing proposals and a summary of their dispute.
3. A party’s meaningful compliance with this order and efforts to promote efficiency and reduce costs will be considered in cost-shifting determinations.
4. Absent a showing of good cause, general ESI production requests under Federal Rules of

Civil Procedure 34 and 45, or compliance with a mandatory disclosure requirement of this Court, shall not include metadata, except, if available, for the following fields: file name, the date and time that the document was created and last modified, the date and time an email was sent and received, the author, the complete distribution list, and the custodian.

5. Absent agreement of the parties or further order of this court, the following parameters shall apply to ESI production:

- a) **General Document Image Format.** Each electronic document shall be produced in single-page Tagged Image File Format (“TIFF”) format, or in native format. TIFF files shall be single page and shall be named with a unique production number followed by the appropriate file extension. Load files shall be provided to indicate the location and unitization of the TIFF files. If a document is more than one page, the unitization of the document and any attachments and/or affixed notes shall be maintained as they existed in the original document.
- b) **Text-Searchable Documents.** No party has an obligation to make its production text-searchable; however, if a party’s documents already exist in text-searchable format independent of this litigation, or are converted to text-searchable format for use in this litigation, including for use by the producing party’s counsel, then such documents shall be produced in the same text-searchable format at no cost to the receiving party.
- c) **Footer.** Each document image shall contain a footer with a sequentially ascending production number.
- d) **Native Files.** A party that receives a document produced in TIFF format specified above may make a reasonable request to receive the document in its native format,

and upon receipt of such a request, the producing party shall produce the document in its native format.

- e) **No Backup Restoration Required.** Absent a showing of good cause, no party need restore any form of media upon which backup data is maintained in a party's normal or allowed processes, including but not limited to backup tapes, disks, SAN, and other forms of media, to comply with its discovery obligations in the present case.
 - f) **Voicemail and Mobile Devices.** Absent a showing of good cause, voicemails, PDAs, instant messaging, and mobile phones are deemed not reasonably accessible and need not be collected and preserved.
6. General ESI production requests under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 34 and 45, or compliance with a mandatory disclosure order of this court, shall not include e-mail or other forms of electronic correspondence (collectively "e-mail"). To obtain e-mail, parties must propound specific e-mail production requests only as set forth below or as modified under Paragraph 2 (above).
7. E-mail production requests shall be phased to occur timely after the parties have exchanged initial disclosures, a specific listing of likely e-mail custodians, a specific identification of the fifteen most significant listed e-mail custodians in view of the pleaded claims and defenses, infringement contentions and accompanying documents pursuant to P.R. 3-1 and 3-2, invalidity contentions and accompanying documents pursuant to P.R. 3-3 and 3-4, and preliminary information relevant to damages. A "specific identification" requires a short description of why the custodian is believed to be significant. The parties have already exchanged information pertaining to the required "specific listing" and

“specific identification” prior to filing the stipulated motion for entry of this Order.

8. For clarity, the Deadline to Substantially Complete Document Production and Exchange Privilege Logs (*see* D.I. 43 at 4) shall not apply to activities under this Order. The parties will endeavor to substantially complete e-mail productions and exchange privilege logs for e-mail by August 10, 2021.
9. Within the limitations set forth in the Discovery Order, each requesting party may also propound up to five written discovery requests and take one deposition per producing party to identify the proper custodians, proper search terms, and proper time frame for e-mail production requests. A party may request additional discovery upon a showing of good cause. The parties agree that such written discovery requests and deposition notice may be served prior to the Court’s entry of this order.
10. E-mail production requests shall identify the custodian, search terms, and time frame, consistent with the limitations set forth in this Order. Upon receipt of the email production requests, the parties shall cooperate to identify the proper custodians, proper search terms, and proper time frame.
11. Each requesting party shall limit its e-mail production requests to a total of up to eight custodians per producing party for all such requests.
12. Each requesting party shall limit its e-mail production requests to a total of ten search terms per custodian per party.
13. If the producing party objects to any search term as directed to irrelevant information, not proportional to the needs of the case, and/or insufficiently tailored to avoid undue burden on the producing party, then no later than seven days after receiving the initial list of search terms for a custodian, the producing party shall provide a hit count identifying the

number of documents for each such search term. The requesting party may then provide modifications to those objected-to search terms (but may not change the identified custodian absent agreement of the producing party). If the modified search terms still produce results that are unduly burdensome or not proportional to the needs of the case, the parties shall meet and confer to agree on any further modifications that may be necessary.

14. Once a reasonable set of search terms has been received, the actual results shall be produced to the requesting party, subject to responsiveness and any privilege, work product, or other protection. The producing party shall produce the identified emails in a reasonably diligent manner.
15. The search terms shall be narrowly tailored to particular issues.
 - a) Indiscriminate terms, such as the producing company's name or its product name, are inappropriate unless combined with narrowing search criteria that sufficiently reduce the risk of overproduction.
 - b) A conjunctive combination of multiple words or phrases (e.g., "computer" and "system") narrows the search and shall count as a single search term.
 - c) A disjunctive combination of multiple words or phrases (e.g., "computer" or "system") broadens the search, and thus each word or phrase shall count as a separate search term unless they are variants of the same word.
 - d) Use of narrowing search criteria (e.g., "and," "but not," "w/x") is encouraged to limit the production and shall be considered when determining whether to shift costs for disproportionate discovery.
16. The parties may jointly agree to modify the custodian or search term limit without the

court's leave. The court shall consider contested requests for additional or fewer custodians per producing party or additional or fewer search terms per custodian, upon showing a distinct need based on the size, complexity, and issues of this specific case.

17. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d), the inadvertent production of a privileged or work product protected ESI is not a waiver in the pending case or in any other federal or state proceeding.
18. The mere production of ESI in a litigation as part of a mass production, including production of e-mail per the agreed-upon search terms if applicable, shall not itself constitute a waiver for any purpose.
19. Except as expressly stated, nothing in this order affects the parties' discovery obligations under the Federal or Local Rules.

So Ordered this

Jun 8, 2021



RODNEY GILSTRAP
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE